

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SCCT-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 PRS-01 IO-03 SAM-01 SAB-01 SP-02 /040 W

----- 000807

R 091436Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4861

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7107

LIMDIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: GOI HINTS AT RETALIATORY STRIKE AGAINST LEBANON

REF: USDAO TEL AVIV 091130Z DEC (NOTAL) AND

071000Z DEC (NOTAL)

1. REFTELS REPORT ON DEC 6 TERRORIST ATTACK ON KUBBUTZ  
ROSH HANIKRA, DIRECTLY IN ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDER AND ABOUT  
ONE MILE INLAND. TWO TERRORISTS LANDED BY BOAT ONE WAS  
KILLED AND SECOND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE RETURNED TO  
LEBANON. TWO ISRAELI KIBBUTZNIKS WERE WOUNDED.

2. ALL ADDRESSEES HAVE RECEIVED FBIS TA 061600 WHICH  
CONVEYS COMMENTS ON LEBANON MADE DEC 6 BY  
DEFMIN PERES. STATEMENT WAS MADE AT LUNCHEON MEETING  
ONLY HOURS AFTER ATTACK, WHILE IDF WAS SEARCHING FOR SECOND  
TERRORIST. WE NOTE INTERNATIONAL PRESS HAS HIGHLIGHTED  
FOLLOWING PORTION OF STATEMENT: " IT IS LEBANON THAT HAS PAID  
A HEAVY PRICE (BY HARBORING TERRORISTS), AND IF IT  
CONTINUES ON THIS COURSE, IT WILL HAVE TO PAY A FURTHER PRICE  
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IN THE FUTURE."

3. ALL ISRAELI PAPERS DEC 9 CARRY STORIES REPORTING ISRAELI TV ARABIC SERVICE INTERVIEW WITH TERRORIST CAPTURED FOLLOWING RAID ON RIHANIYA DEC 1. THRUST OF COVERAGE IS THAT TERRORIST, IDENTIFIED AS ABDUL-RAHMAN ZAGHLOUL FROM VILLAGE NEAR NENIN, REPORTEDLY CLAIMS THAT NEW LEBANESE GOVT IS GIVING MORE HELP TO TERRORIST GROUPS THAN DID ITS PREDECESSOR. ACCORDING JERUSALEM POST FRONT-PAGE ACCOUNT, ZAGHLOUL "COMMENDED THE NEW LEBANESE GOVT, UNDER RASHID EL-SOLH, FOR FACILITATING TERRORIST ACTIONS. THE AUTHORITIES WERE AWARE OF THE LOCATION OF TERRORIST BASES AND KNEW WHEN MARAUDERS INFILTRATED INTO ISRAEL. HE BELIEVED THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES COULD PREVENT THE TERRORISTS FROM INFILTRATING INTO ISRAEL IF THEY WISHED." STORY GOES ON TO SAY THAT, ACCORDING ZAGHLOUL, WHEN HE AND PARTNER WERE ENROUTE TO ISRAEL, THEY PASSED LEBANESE ARMY CHECKPOST: WHEN THEY SAID THEY WERE WITH FATAH THEY WERE ALLOWED TO PASS.

4. COMMENT: DETAILS OF WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED AT ROSH HANIKRA ON DEC 6 ARE OBSCURE, BUT THRUST OF SUBSEQUENT PERES STATEMENT AND MEDIA EXPLOITATION OF INTERVIEW WITH TERRORIST ARE NOT. WE NOTE THAT IDF NEVER DID RETALIATE FOR BET SHEAN INCIDENT OTHER THAN BY CONTINUING "ROUTINE" ARTILLERY SHELLING AND CROSS-BORDER PATROLLING. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO COMBINATION OF NEGOTIATIONS AT TIME FOR RENEWAL OF UNDOF MANDATE AND DOUBT ABOUT ORIGIN OF PERPETRATORS. WITHOUT PRESUMING TO PREDICT IDF ACTIONS, WE WOULD NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF FAIRLY MAJOR RETALIATORY EFFORT AGAINST LEBANON, POSSIBLY AFTER CONCLUSION OF ALLON VISIT TO WASHINGTON. DOZIER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REVANCHISM, COMBAT OPERATIONS, TERRORISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974TELAV07107  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740356-1034  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741249/aaaabpoz.tel  
**Line Count:** 93  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** USDAO TEL AVIV 091130Z DEC (NOTAL) A, ND  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOI HINTS AT RETALIATORY STRIKE AGAINST LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, IS, XF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005